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system. The origin of justice and the more important stages of its development are found to be everywhere the same. The steps by which private revenge becomes social revenge should be a matter of familiar knowledge by this time, for they have been fully presented and discussed in recent years, even in semi-popular works like Judge Holmes's lectures on the *History of the Common Law*; yet M. Letourneau is able to impart a considerable degree of fresh interest to the subject by examining it in its relation to physiological reflex action. He shows that no line can be drawn where reflex action passes into conscious revenge, or between the reflex action that is merely individual and that which is essentially social. This is not only interesting; it is important, as throwing a new light on the position so vigorously maintained by Justice Stephen, in his *History of the Criminal Law of England*, that the feeling of vengeance toward criminals, so far from being wicked or a mere shameful survival of brutality that civilization ought to eradicate, is essentially moral and certainly indestructible. It must be rationalized and tempered, but must always remain the motive power of justice. The progressive rationalizing and tempering step by step with the socializing of vengeance is M. Letourneau's thesis, but in a few concluding words of speculation on the future of juridical evolution he goes quite beyond his facts and falls into the error that Justice Stephen warns us against. He complains that the courts still consider themselves charged with a mission of vengeance, and affirms that "future justice will not chastise; it will only work for social preservation and, if possible, for education." The belief is humane, but falls somewhat short of scientific precision.

FRANKLIN H. GIDDINGS.

*Imperial Federation: The Problem of National Unity.* By GEORGE R. PARKIN. London and New York, Macmillan & Co., 1892. — 12mo, xii, 314 pp., with map.

The subject of this book is probably the most important, although perhaps not the most pressing, political problem that confronts the world to-day. If, as Bluntschli says, "only in the universal empire will the true human state be revealed," then the nearest approximation to that empire that is at all probable or possible in the immediate future, the federated union of Great Britain and her colonies, must prove a matter worthy not only to be considered but even to be desired by us all.

While Mr. Parkin's volume must be regarded rather as a piece of special pleading than as an impartial study of "the problem of national unity," it must be said at once that he has treated his subject in a manner suitable to its greatness and dignity. He writes from abundance of information, in a liberal spirit and in a style that is distinctly pleasing. He has therefore produced what is not only a readable book, but also a valuable one apart from its special subject matter, for it contains a great deal of information about the present condition of the British colonies that will be of interest to readers who are not especially concerned about the outcome of the growing movement for imperial federation. Mr. Parkin is a Canadian, who has traveled widely in the interests of the federationist cause; he has therefore not relied entirely upon materials which any other man could gather in his study, but has given his book the permanent value that attaches to the impressions of a thoughtful and trained observer.

He discusses his subject in fourteen chapters, six of which treat of the general nature of the problem, and six of the special relations it bears to the mother country and the great colonial groups. The two remaining chapters are devoted to a criticism of the views of two pronounced opponents of the federationist scheme. There was some reason perhaps why Mr. Goldwin Smith should have a chapter to himself, headed by his own name; but there seems to be little reason for devoting a whole chapter to the views of Mr. Andrew Carnegie, and still less for entitling that chapter "An American View," even if the well-known Scotchman did employ the phrase in an article contributed by him to the *Nineteenth Century* some months ago.

I cannot enter, in a short notice like the present, into an analysis of the various chapters, or express an opinion as to the strength or weakness of the particular arguments advanced. Of the chapters devoted to the special colonies, those on Canada are naturally fullest and most interesting, although in them Mr. Parkin allows more weight to sentimental considerations than is perhaps safe. There is little that is sentimental in the chapter devoted to Australasia, but the absence of sentiment is made up by the humorousness of some of the quoted comments of Australian journalists on the subject of imperial federation. After the unnecessary discussion of the views of Mr. Carnegie the chapter on "Trade and Fiscal Policy" is least satisfactory. Mr. Parkin's expressions of opinion on the question of free trade and fair trade lack the ring of definiteness, and much

that he has to say of the financial policy of this country will need revision in the light of recent events.

The book has been well printed, for only two typographical mistakes have been found. On page 251, bottom line, *whom* should read *who*; and on page 308, line 11, *North African* should read *South African*. A very convenient commercial and strategic chart of the British Empire has been specially designed for the volume by Mr. J. G. Bartholomew, but neither author nor publisher seems to have thought an index necessary.

W. P. TRENT.

*The Dialogues of Plato.* Translated into English, with Analyses and Introductions, by B. JOWETT, M.A. Five volumes. Third Edition, revised and corrected throughout. New York and London, Macmillan and Co., 1892.

The possessor of a first or second edition of a somewhat costly work is accustomed to look askance at a third edition. He has seen in his time many editions in which the alterations in the series were so slight as to make it of little consequence whether he possessed the first or the last. Such is not the case here. Jowett's Plato was first published in 1871. An American reprint was soon issued by Charles Scribner's Sons from this edition, and in 1875 came the second English edition, "revised and corrected throughout." The alterations here were numerous, and exhibited the pains which the author was willing to bestow upon his work. In the years that have elapsed this translation has become a classic of its kind. The writer who wishes to quote a passage of Plato to English readers presents the version of Jowett as a matter of course. Such general acceptance gives the translator the full right to regard his publication as one of the great works of his life, and to desire to bequeath it to posterity in a form as near perfection as his care and thought and added years can attain. Such an idea was natural to one who can now dedicate his volumes to the pupils of fifty years of his life, and with this purpose he entered upon the task of this final revision. The magnitude of the task and the love with which it was executed may be seen from the statement embodied in Volume I: "The additions and alterations which have been made, both in the introductions and in the text of this edition, affect at least a third of the work," a claim which, from repeated tests and comparisons made in passages taken at random in the different dialogues, appears justified.